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COSFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

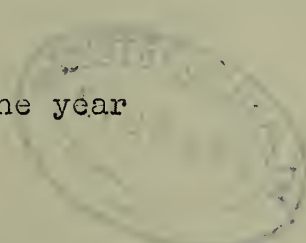
WEST SUFFOLK.

R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year



1952.

ROBERT H. CLAYTON, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health for the Rural District of
Cosford in the County of West Suffolk for the year ending
31st December, 1952.

Public Health Offices,
8, Whiting Street,
Bury St. Edmunds.
August, 1953.

To:-

The Chairman and Members of the
Rural District Council of Cosford.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Herewith I beg to submit for your favourable consideration
my seventeenth Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health, being that
for the year ended 31st December, 1952, and acknowledge my
indebtedness to Mr. Hine in its compilation, as also to Mr. Durrant,
Clerk of the Council.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ROBERT H. CLAYTON.

M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

(a) Medical. One part-time Medical Officer of Health,

Robert H. Clayton, M.B., B.S., B.Hy.,
D.P.H. (Durham). Cert. Mental Deficiency
and Allied Subjects (London), appointed
1st February, 1937.

This Officer does not engage in private practice but holds in
addition the following appointments:- Medical Officer of Health
Newmarket U.D.C., Thingoe R.D.C., Thedwastre R.D.C., and
Mildenhall R.D.C.

(b) Others. One Sanitary Inspector,

G. H. Hine, T.I.MUNE, M.S.I.A., Meat & Other Foods
Certificate R.S.I.
Appointed 1st May, 1947.

Mr. Hine is also Surveyor to the Council.

One Additional Sanitary Inspector,

E. A. PANKS, M.S.I.A., Meat & Other Foods
Certificate R.S.I., M.Inst. Housing.
Appointed 17th July, 1947.

SECTION A.
STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

1. GENERAL STATISTICS. Area 48,530 acres.

Registrar General's estimate of the resident population	1952. 9,443	(1951) (9,505)	(1950) (9,690)
Number of inhabited houses at end of year according to Rate Book	3,312	(3,221)	(3,450)
Rateable Value	£33,787	(£33,444)	(£32,359)
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£145	(£144)	(£140)

2. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

	Total.			Male.			Female.		
	1952	(1951)	(1950)	1952	(1951)	(1950)	1952	(1951)	(1950)
Live Births.									
Legitimate.	135	(149)	(132)	67	(75)	(67)	68	(74)	(65)
Illegitimate.	3	(3)	(13)	1	(2)	(5)	2	(1)	(8)
Stillbirths.									
Legitimate.	3	(Nil)	(3)	Nil	(Nil)	(3)	3	(Nil)	(Nil)
Illegitimate.	Nil	(Nil)	(Nil)	Nil	(Nil)	(Nil)	Nil	(Nil)	(Nil)
Deaths.	124	(140)	(136)	62	(76)	(74)	62	(64)	(62)
Deaths under 1 year.	3	(3)	(2)	Nil	(2)	(2)	3	(1)	(Nil)

	Cosford.			England & Wales.		
	1952	(1951)	(1950)	1952	(1951)	(1950)
Birth Rate. (Live births per 1000 population).	14.6	(16.0)	(15.0)	15.3	(15.5)	(15.8)
Comparability Factor, Births.	1.19	(1.19)	(1.19)			
Corrected Birth Rate.	17.4	(19.0)	(17.8)			
Stillbirth Rate per 1000 population.	0.32	(Nil)	(0.31)	0.35	(0.36)	(0.37)
Stillbirth Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births.	21.3	(Nil)	(20.3)	22.6		
Death Rate per 1000 resident population.	13.1	(14.7)	(14.0)	11.3	(12.5)	(11.6)
Comparability Factor, Deaths.	0.73	(0.73)	(0.73)			
Corrected Death Rate.	9.6	(10.8)	(10.2)			
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year.						
All infants per 1000 live births.	21.7	(19.7)	(13.8)	27.6	(29.6)	(30)
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate births.	22.2	(20.1)	(15.1)			
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate births.	Nil	(Nil)	(Nil)			

The three deaths under one year of age (all legitimate female infants) which included 2 under 4 weeks of age, were as follows:-

- 4 days, Atelectasis, Prematurity.
- 1 week, Erythroblastosis Foetalis.
- 3 months, Congenital polycystic kidneys.

The only other death in the nonage was a suicide of an 18 year old boy.

95 (77%) of the 124 deaths occurred after age 65 years and of these 59 (48%) occurred after age 75 years.

The following table gives the causes and the number of deaths occurring at the various age groups. The totals correspond with the Registrar General's figures.

As in last year's report the deaths have been classified to conform with implementation of the World Health Organisation Nomenclature Regulations, 1948 - these regulations being set out on pages 371-376 of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1948.

CAUSES OF DEATH.		Deaths at the sub-joined ages of "RESIDENTS" whether occurring in or beyond the District.									
		Under 1 year.	1 to 4 years.	5 to 14 years.	15 to 24 years.	25 to 44 years.	45 to 64 years.	65 to 74 years.	75 & over.	TOTAL Registrar General's figures.	
		M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory.	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
10.	Malignant neoplasm, Stomach.	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	2	1	2
11.	Malignant neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus.	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	3
12.	Malignant neoplasm, Breast.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
14.	Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms.	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	3	6
15.	Leukaemia.	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
16.	Diabetes.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system.	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	6	8
18.	Coronary disease, angina.	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	5	-	7
19.	Hypertension with heart disease.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
20.	Other heart disease.	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	2	11
21.	Other circulatory disease.	-	1	-	1	-	-	2	3	-	6
23.	Pneumonia.	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	1
24.	Bronchitis.	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	1	3
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach & duodenum.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1
28.	Nephritis & Nephrosis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
31.	Congenital malformations.	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
32.	Other defined & ill-defined diseases.	-	1	-	-	-	2	1	3	-	4
33.	Motor vehicle accidents.	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
34.	All other accidents.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
35.	Suicide.	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	-	-	4
Total:	Males.	-	-	-	2	1	12	18	29	-	62
	Females.	-	3	-	-	1	10	18	30	-	62

	Rateable Value.	Penny Rate Product.	No. of inhabited houses.	Registrar-General's Estimate Population.	Total Deaths.	Deaths under one year.		Births.		Stillbirths.	
						Legitimate.	Illegitimate.	Legitimate.	Illegitimate.	Legitimate.	Illegitimate.
1936.	£23,210	£105	2,707	9,091	126	4	Nil	131	9	3	Nil
1937.	£23,605	£107	2,923	8,912	145	4	Nil	105	4	5	1
1938.	£24,701	£112	2,942	8,941	132	4	Nil	114	4	5	Nil
1939.	£25,175	£113	2,975	9,230	156	5	Nil	128	3	1	Nil
1940.	£25,480	£116	3,107	9,956	147	6	Nil	125	2	2	1
1941.	£25,423	£116	3,102	10,790	160	5	Nil	158	2	6	Nil
1942.	£25,539	£120	3,098	9,748	126	6	Nil	143	6	6	Nil
1943.	£33,218	£124	3,090	9,441	129	4	Nil	148	4	4	1
1944.	£26,240	£120	3,096	9,467	145	5	Nil	159	15	5	Nil
1945.	£26,521	£116	3,098	9,014	126	2	2	142	24	1	Nil
TOTALS FOR DECADE.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1,392	45	2	1,353	73	38	3
ANNUAL AVERAGE DURING DECADE. 1936 to 1945.	£25,911	£115	3,014	9,459	139	4.5	0.2	134	7.3	3.8	0.3
1946.	£26,749	£116	3,111	9,065	136	4	Nil	156	8	4	Nil
1947.	£28,239	£126	3,163	9,121	120	1	Nil	199	11	4	1
1948.	£28,471	£129	3,244	9,244	136	1	1	167	11	6	Nil
1949.	£30,534	£161	3,301	9,410	138	5	Nil	159	7	5	Nil
1950.	£32,359	£140	3,450	9,690	136	2	2	132	13	3	Nil
1951.	£33,444	£144	3,221	9,505	140	3	Nil	149	3	Nil	Nil
1952.	£33,787	£145	3,312	9,443	124	3	Nil	135	3	3	Nil

SECTION B.
GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

(a) LABORATORY FACILITIES. An excellent bacteriological service is provided by the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service.

From some parts of the District it is more convenient to send to the Laboratory at Cambridge, under the directorship of Dr. R. M. Fry, and from other parts to send to the Laboratory at Ipswich, under the Directorship of Dr. P. Martin.

(b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES. The West Suffolk County Council through the agency of the Suffolk Branch of the British Red Cross Society provided the Ambulance Service for the District.

(c) NURSING IN THE HOME. The West Suffolk County Council District Nurse-Midwives carry out these duties.

(d) CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES. These are not the responsibility of the Rural District Council.

(e) HOSPITALS. The use of hospitals by Cosford residents is indicated by the following information with regard to live births and deaths:-

66 (49%) of the 138 live births took place at the residents home in our District.

Of the 124 deaths, 62 occurred at the resident's own home in the Cosford District. Of the remaining 62 there were 58 in hospitals as under:-

- 29 Walnuttrees Hospital, Sudbury.
- 5 West Suffolk General Hospital, Bury St. Edmunds.
- 7 St. Mary's Hospital, Bury St. Edmunds.
- 3 East Suffolk & Ipswich Hospital, Ipswich.
- 3 St. Audry's Hospital, Melton.
- 6 Ipswich Borough General Hospital, Ipswich.
- 1 Essex County Hospital, Colchester.
- 1 St. Leonards Hospital, Sudbury.
- 1 Black Notley Hospital, Braintree.
- 1 St. Mary's Hospital, Tattlingstone.
- 1 National Hospital, Holborn.

SECTION C.
SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (i) WATER. The water supply in Cosford has been taken from seven main parish supplies and various smaller supplies originated to serve Council house estates. The seven main parish supplies were as under:-

- Lavenham
- Bildeston and Nedging
- Boxford and part Edwardstone
- Whatfield
- Hitcham
- Brettenham
- Lindsey

The parishes with original Council house supplies were:-

- Cockfield
- Kersey
- Monks Eleigh
- Polstead
- Elmsett
- Edwardstone
- Layham.

These multifarious schemes are being greatly transformed into a comprehensive scheme for the District and already the Lavenham, & Bildeston and Nedging schemes have been connected to the Comprehensive Scheme, as has the housing site supply at Cockfield.

Comprehensive Scheme.

A start was made on the Mainlaying Contract in June 1952 and steady progress was made so that by the end of the year mains had been laid in Cockfield, Lavenham, Preston and Thorpe Morieux. It was not possible to commence house connections until November since leaks occurred in the mains which proved very difficult to trace. From this date, however, connections have been made steadily. At 31st December, 1952, there were 35 properties being supplied from the new mains.

In addition, a link had been made with the existing mains in the parish of Lavenham so that in the event of a breakdown at this works the parish could be supplied with water from the Comprehensive Scheme.

No work was carried out during the year on the proposed pumping station at Semer, or the reservoirs at Nedging, Lavenham and Polstead; until these are constructed it is proposed to continue pipe-laying and take the water from the Thingoe Rural District Council's reservoir at Bradfield St. Clare.

Existing Water Installations.

These installations have, (with the one exception of Cockfield) remained in use during the year and have continued to give a supply of wholesome water to a considerable proportion of the population. The majority of these waterworks have had a considerable amount of wear and in cases anxiety exists as to whether they will continue to give satisfactory service until they can be superceded by the Comprehensive Scheme.

The main Lavenham pump has broken down on three occasions during the year, on one occasion two lengths of rising main were renewed and it was twice found necessary to repair the pump rods. On the last occasion that a breakdown occurred, the subsidiary pump also went out of action. Fortunately a connection had already been made to the Comprehensive Scheme mains, and an alternative supply of water was therefore available while repairs were carried out.

With the laying of the new mains in Cockfield, the small pump supplying the Council houses at Great Green has become redundant and has been removed.

The following table gives the position in the parishes served by the Council's mains and extensions from housing sites:-

Parish.	Total Houses.	Houses with Piped Supply.		% Houses supplied in parish and therefore approximate % population supplied.		
		Into House.	Within 200 ft. of house.	A.	B.	Total %
		A.	B.			
Aldham.	54	-	-	-	-	-
Brent Eleigh.	60	-	-	-	-	-
Brettenham.	101	75	-	74	-	74%
Bildeston.	219	148	52	68	24	91%
Boxford.	261	190	28	73	11	84%
Cockfield.	236	54	32	23	14	36%
Chelsworth.	56	-	-	-	-	-
Edwardstone.	116	32	23	28	20	47%
Elmsett.	115	26	13	23	11	34%
Groton.	79	1	5	1	6	8%
Hitcham.	219	92	62	42	28	70%
Kersey.	154	20	15	13	10	23%
Kettlebaston.	30	-	-	-	-	-
Lavenham.	556	364	163	65	29	95%
Layham.	130	8	7	6	5	12%
Lindsey.	63	10	7	16	11	27%
Milden.	45	-	-	-	-	-
Monks Eleigh.	159	8	36	5	23	28%
Nedging with Naughton.	108	63	30	58	28	86%
Polstead.	196	27	17	14	9	22%
Preston.	79	1	-	1	-	1%
Semer.	56	-	-	-	-	-
Thorpe Morieux.	90	4	-	4	-	4%
Wattisham.	44	-	-	-	-	-
Whatfield.	86	45	22	52	26	78%
Total:	3,312	1,168	512	35	15	51%

Other Public Supplies. In some parishes without a public piped supply of water there are borewells fitted with hand pumps, i.e., in Kersey, Kettlebaston, Layham, Milden and Preston. In Aldham the hand pump has been superceded by a small petrol engine which raises the water into a ground level tank. In other parishes it has been necessary to make arrangements for standpipes to be supplied from private sources in order to give a wholesome supply to the householders in the vicinity. Agreements of this type are in operation in the parishes of Edwardstone, Layham, Milden, Thorpe Morieux and Wattisham. A public draw-well is still in use at Wattisham, but it has been possible to discontinue the use of the well at Windsor Green, Cockfield.

Water Carting. A limited amount of water carting was carried out mainly to small groups of houses without other means of supply. These were in the parishes of Preston, Wattisham, Kersey and Semer. With the laying of the mains in Cockfield, it is no longer necessary to cart water to this parish.

(ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

(a) Major Schemes - Lavenham. This scheme was completed in 1950 and is working very well. Samples of the effluent have been taken and are quite satisfactory. The decision of the Council to pay half the cost, up to a maximum of £15, towards the expense of converting E.C's. to W.C's. has been a great encouragement to property owners and conversions have been carried out at a pleasing rate throughout the year. The position at the end of 1952 was that 60% of the E.C's. had been converted to W.C's.

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>W.C's.</u>	<u>E.C's.</u>
Dwellings on route of sewer	493	299	194
Shops, Factories, etc. on route of sewer	23	14	9
Total at end of 1952:	516	313	203
Position at the end of 1951	515	222	293

During the year the Council appointed a Sewage Works Attendant to maintain the three major schemes, Lavenham, Bildeston and Boxford, and to give attention also to the minor schemes at the Council's housing sites.

Bildeston. The Contractors after constructing the sewers in a very expeditious manner progressed slowly with the completion of the disposal works and pumping station, some delay having been encountered through non-delivery of steel reinforcement. This caused great disappointment until the end of the year and some pollution of the River Brett was unavoidable until the scheme began working. The Disposal Works is now operating and the effluent is very satisfactory.

Boxford. Very good progress was made towards completing the Boxford Sewerage Scheme. All the sewers and curtilage connections were constructed and steady progress maintained in the building of the Disposal Works so that in 1953 the scheme could be put into operation.

(b) Minor Schemes. A small disposal scheme has been installed at the Council's housing site at Thorpe Morieux during the year under review. The number of dwellings served by the minor sewerage disposal schemes are as follows:-

<u>Parish.</u>	<u>No. of houses served.</u>	<u>Parish.</u>	<u>No. of houses served.</u>
Brettenham	8	Layham	10
Cockfield	38	Monks Eleigh	8
Edwardstone	16	Polstead	19
Hitcham	18	Thorpe Morieux	8
Kersey	10	Whatfield	20
		Elmsett	20

Since the Council appointed a full-time Sewage Works Attendant it has been possible to give more attention to the maintenance of these small plants which have worked satisfactorily during the year. De-sludging is carried out with the Council's Cesspool Emptier. During the year it was found necessary to renew the clincker filter media at the Elmsett housing site disposal works.

At Brettenham some nuisance reoccurred owing to the very close proximity of the dwellings.

2. RIVERS AND STREAMS. The condition of the River Brett at Lavenham is vastly improved now that the main drainage scheme is fully operative. All the foul drainage of the town has been disconnected from the old highway drains which now empty surface water only directly into the river. Samples of the sewage works effluent have been satisfactory. Some contamination of the River Brett took place at Bildeston until the sewage works there became operative and of the River Box at Boxford. It can reasonably be assumed that this contamination has now been permanently abated.

3 (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION. 60% of the houses in the parish of Lavenham now have the amenity of a water closet. Conversion of the E.C's. to W.C's. at 14 Lavenham Council houses took place during the year. Plans of further proposed conversions have been deposited and the replacement of E.C's. by W.C's. is taking place at a satisfactory rate.

In the parishes of Bildeston and Boxford, some W.C. conversions have taken place and a similar satisfactory conversion rate is anticipated when the sewage works become fully operative.

In the remainder of the district earth closets are in use, mainly pail closets. A twice weekly collection of nightsoil is carried out in the parishes of Lavenham, Boxford, Bildeston and Kersey. As W.C. conversions take place in the first three parishes mentioned the time taken to collect the nightsoil decreases and it may be possible to extend the service to other villages in the future.

The vehicle is used also for cesspool emptying and de-sludging the minor sewerage schemes at the Council's housing sites. Following the extensive water main laying being carried out, within the district, it is anticipated that more owners of private houses will construct drainage systems to cesspools and septic tanks and the cesspool emptying part of the work of this vehicle is likely to increase.

A small number of pails are emptied, as also some cesspools, to assist our neighbours, the Hadleigh U.D.C.

Public Convenience, Lavenham.

Owing to Government Capital Expenditure the Ministry deferred the allocation of a starting date for the erection of the Public Convenience at Lavenham. This was unfortunate as there is a very urgent need for this convenience in Lavenham which receives large numbers of visitors often by coaches. Fortunately the restriction subsequently was lifted.

(ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING. The "kerbside" system of refuse collection was carried out during 1952 with a weekly collection taking place in the parishes of Lavenham, Boxford and Bildeston; a fortnightly collection in Aldham, Elmsett, Monks Eleigh, Brent Eleigh, Hitcham, Brettenham, Layham and Polstead, and a monthly collection in the remainder of the district. During the year it was found possible to improve the Polstead service from a monthly collection to a fortnightly one. The amount of refuse collected continues to increase and it becomes more difficult to avoid working the vehicle crew overtime. A saving of time and running expenses has been effected by the Council taking over an unsightly and uncontrolled village tip in an old brick working at Boxford. This tip serving the Southern part of the district is now being brought under control and in years to come it is hoped that a parcel of land may be reinstated to agricultural use and incorporated into the adjoining field of which the tip was once part. The principal controlled tip is at Monks Eleigh which is situated almost in the middle of the district.

Both tips are treated regularly for the destruction of flies and rodents.

(iii) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA. The Sanitary Inspectors have been unchanged during the year. Mr. Hine has supplied the tabular statement on the following page on the work of Mr. Panks and himself:-

Number of visits Public Health and Housing Acts	..	..	..	165
Housing Act, 1949, (Grant-aided Improvements)	..	..	..	40
Tents, Vans and Sheds	..	..	..	52
Factories	..	..	..	42
Shops & Food Premises	..	..	..	44
Dairies	..	..	..	4
Water Samples - Bacteriological	..	..	..	130
Chemical	..	..	..	5
Re existing mains	..	..	..	63
New Water Scheme	..	..	..	612
Private water supplies	..	..	..	24
Refuse Collection	..	..	..	103
Nightsoil	..	..	..	91
After Infectious Disease	..	..	..	5
Disinfestation	..	..	..	5
Bakehouses	..	..	..	10
Slaughterhouses and meat inspections	..	..	..	52
Schools	..	..	..	8
Public Houses	..	..	..	7
Housing Sites	..	..	..	141
Housing Management	..	..	..	688
New Buildings	..	..	..	61
Bye-laws & Planning, etc.	..	..	..	97
Alterations to existing buildings	..	..	..	92
Requisitioned property	..	..	..	12
New drainage & closet conversions	..	..	..	610
Sewers	..	..	..	74
Sewage disposal works	..	..	..	67
Petroleum	..	..	..	12
Explosives	..	..	..	5

Factory Act, 1937. Inspections for purpose of provisions as to health.

Premises.	Number on Register.	Number of		
		Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers prosecuted.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	9	9	1	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	29	24	4	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises.)	9	9	Nil	Nil
	47	42	5	Nil

Cases in which defects were found.

	No. of cases in which defects were				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.	To H.M. Inspector.	By H.M. Inspector.	
Want of cleanliness(S.1)	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
Unsuitable or defective	4	4	Nil	Nil	Nil

Part VIII of the Act. OUTWORK. (Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work.

No. of out-workers in August list
required by Section 110 (1) (c)

Wearing Apparel.

1

During the year the conversion of L.C's. to W.C's. took place at 3 factories in Lavenham and 1 at Boxford. The Council's scheme of financial assistance towards the expense of closet conversions extends to Factories, Shops, etc., so that several more conversions may be expedited in Boxford and Bildeston early in 1953.

(iv) SHOPS AND OFFICES. 44 visits were made to shops and offices. Occupiers of shops and offices have been approached during the year and several E.C's. have been converted to W.C's. in the parishes of Lavenham, Bildeston and Boxford.

(v) CAMPING SITES. No regular camping site exists within the Rural District. The Council has let a portion of land at the rear of a housing site in Lavenham for stationing caravans. This site can be used for this purpose without being detrimental to the amenities of the parish.

14 licences to occupy caravans have been issued during the year, mainly to house agricultural workers adjacent to farms until the occupants can be found housing accommodation by the farmer concerned.

In Boxford there is one site where an encampment of 5 families live. The families are of the type who prefer an open-air life - not one family having completed an application form for a house. The camp is kept in a fair condition. Water is carried from the Council's mains. The men folk work on their own account tarring farmbuildings, etc. and some of the women folk do seasonal work on the farms. The children are clean and attend school regularly. The conditions of the camping licence are observed by the camp dwellers.

(vi) SMOKE ABATEMENT. There are no cases of nuisance from excessive smoke in the Rural District.

(vii) SWIMMING BATHS. There are no swimming baths in the District.

(viii) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS. No case of bed bug infestation was discovered or reported during 1952.

Five flea infestations, in old non-Council houses, were discovered and immediate measures were taken by the Council's Staff. Immediate and successful measures to treat the premises, with Cooper McDougal & Robertson Multispray were undertaken by the Council's Staff.

(ix) RODENT CONTROL. During the year, the regular survey of all properties within the district has continued and all infested properties have received treatment. Some 354 properties have been treated and 1,036 bodies have been found. Regular attention has been paid to sewers and refuse tips to keep them free from infestation.

On the following page is an extract from the Annual Report submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

(x) THE RAG FLOCK & OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951. There are no premises in the District which require registration or licensing under the above Act. The premises in the District which carry out upholstery work only carry out repair, re-making and reconditioning of articles and are therefore exempt from registration under Section 1(2)(a) of the Act.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses.	Agri-cultural.	All other (including Business and Industrial).	Total.
1. Total number of properties in Local Authority's District.	22	2,965	290 inc. holdings	393	3,670
2. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1952 as a result of					
(a) notification or	(a) Nil	63	11	3	77
(b) otherwise.	(b) 22	2,612	279	135	3,048
3. No. of properties inspected which were found to be infested by rats.	Major 1 Minor 4	17 287	12 21	1 7	31 319
4. No. of properties inspected which were found to be seriously infested by mice .		N I L			
5. No. of infested properties treated by the Local Authority (see Section 3 & 4).	5	290	15	8	318
6. No. of notices served under Section 4 :					
(1) Treatment		N I L			
(2) Structural Works (i.e.proofing)		N I L			
7. No. of cases in which default action was taken by local authority following the issue of a notice under Section 4.		N I L			
8. Legal Proceedings.		N I L			
9. No. of "block" control schemes carried out.	9				

(xi) SCHOOLS. During the year the E.C's. have been converted to W.C's. at Lavenham School. Arrangements have been made with the West Suffolk County Council for the E.C. Pails at Monks Eleigh School to be emptied with the Council's cesspool emptier. During 1953 the Education Authority may be able to arrange for the closet conversions to take place at Bildeston and Boxford Schools now that sewers are constructed in these parishes. During 1952 it was necessary to cart drinking water to Cockfield School but the Council should be able to make a mains supply available early in 1953.

(xii) PUBLIC HOUSES. The Brewery Companies have taken advantage of the sewerage schemes in Lavenham and Boxford to effect improvements to the sanitary conveniences to some of their licensed houses in these parishes. In other parishes where water mains have been made available during the year water has been piped into the Public Houses. Extensive alteration and improvements have been carried out at an Inn at Polstead where the men's convenience was very insanitary and inadequately screened. Pressure is being exerted to secure improvements at other licensed premises within the Rural District.

SECTION D.
HOUSING.

1. (1) (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	143
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	165
(2) (a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under Sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925.	17
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	21
(3) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	17
(4) Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceeding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	105
2. <u>Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notice.</u>	
Number of defective dwellinghouses at which improvements or repairs have been carried out in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.	104
3. <u>Action under Statutory Powers during the year. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.</u>	
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.	Nil
(2) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice:-	
(a) By Owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
<u>Proceedings under Public Health Acts.</u>	
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	Nil
(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices.	
(a) By Owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
<u>Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.</u>	
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which	
(a) Demolition Orders were made	Nil
(b) Undertakings accepted not to re-let for human habitation	11
(c) Undertakings accepted to carry out specified works of repair	3
(d) Undertakings cancelled after completion of specified works of repair	3
(2) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	4
<u>Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.</u>	
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Closing Orders were made.	Nil
(2) Number of dwellinghouses closed in pursuance of Closing Orders.	Nil

4. Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding.

- (a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 3
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein 3
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein 19
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 2
- (c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year Nil
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases Nil
- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwellinghouses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority having taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding Nil

In 1952 the Council completed the building of 33 houses.

At 31st December, 1952, the Council had 28 houses under construction.

The number of houses completed post-war has been:-

	<u>Council Houses.</u>	<u>Private.</u>
1946	Nil	3
1947	62 *	10
1948	40	7
1949	52	10
1950	46	8
1951	17	8
1952	33	15
	<u>250</u>	<u>61</u>

* includes 30 Prefabricated Houses.

The Council, therefore, owned 492 Council houses at the end of 1952 and they were situated in the parishes as indicated in the following table:-

Parish.	Total number of Houses in Parish.	<u>C O U N C I L H O U S E S</u>		
		Pre-War	Post-War	In course of Construction.
Aldham.	54	6	-	-
Brent Eleigh.	60	10	2	-
Brettenham.	101	2	6	-
Bildeston.	219	24	32	14
Boxford.	261	20	32	10
Cockfield.	236	28	16	-
Chelsworth.	56	2	-	-
Edwardstone.	116	12	12	-
Elmsett.	115	10	14	-
Groton.	79	12	-	-
Hitcham.	219	12	18	-
Kersey.	154	4	10	-
Kettlebaston.	30	-	-	-
Lavenham.	556	30	58	-
Layham.	130	2	8	-
Lindsey.	63	4	2	-
Milden.	45	2	-	-
Monks Eleigh.	159	6	8	-
Nedging with Naughton.	108	14	-	-
Polstead.	196	10	16	-
Preston.	79	2	4	-
Semer.	56	-	-	-
Thorpe Morieux.	90	6	4	4
Wattisham.	44	4	-	-
Whatfield.	86	20	8	-
	3,312	242	250	28

Housing Act, 1949. The Council implement the grant provisions of the above Act and encourage owners to take advantage of the financial assistance to help in the reconditioning of houses in the District. During the year the Council approved the making of a grant in respect of 6 properties, and refused to do so in one case. One scheme was completed and two were in progress at the end of the year. The Ministry has also approved all the cases so far submitted to them after approval by the Council.

The Council has purchased 6 stud and plaster cottages with tiled roofs in the parish of Lavenham, which are considered to be of architectural and historic interest. Plans have been approved by the Ministry for the improvement and reconditioning of this terrace of cottages into 4 houses with financial assistance to the Council under the Housing Act, 1949. It is hoped that the works will be completed during 1953. A parcel of land at the rear of this property has provided a site for 4 new houses which are to be erected on the return frontage to Shilling Street, and which can be built without any costly road, sewer or water main extensions.

The Council advanced money, under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1949, to an agricultural worker in the parish of Milden to assist him to build a new house for his own occupation.

Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1938.

During 1952 there have been 5 houses erected by private individuals for the occupation of agricultural workers with the aid of the £15 per annum subsidy for 40 years. In one of the cases the Council also advanced money under the Housing Act, 1949, to build the dwelling.

Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts.

The Council has adopted the above Acts and during the year under review advances were made in 3 cases to help persons to become owner/occupiers of their own houses. In the parish of Milden, one young couple who were on the Council's housing waiting list, were assisted to purchase an existing cottage. In the parish of Polstead an advance was made to an applicant who built his bungalow himself in his spare time. This person vacated a Council house to reside in his new bungalow thus giving the Council an additional house to let. In the parish of Groton an advance was made to a carpenter who also built his bungalow in his spare time.

SECTION E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

- (a) MILK SUPPLY. The principal dairy within the Rural District is situated at "Greenbank", Boxford. A very high quality Pasteurised and Tuberculin Tested Milk is retailed from this dairy. The business has expanded by taking over other milk rounds so that this high quality and very safe milk is being distributed to houses and schools in a large part of the Rural District.

A Supplementary Licence is in force for the distribution of this milk within the Rural Districts of Melford, Samford and Gipping, the Urban District of Hadleigh and the Borough of Sudbury.

The results of the bacteriological analysis of samples of the milk have been very satisfactory throughout the year.

Supervision of milk producers is now carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries.

- (b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS. The slaughter of home killed meat consumed in the Cosford Rural District is carried out at Bures. There is no slaughtering in our District other than an occasional pig for private use, or an emergency slaughter.

Butchers shops and meat delivery vans on inspection during the year were found to be kept in a hygienic manner.

During the year improvement in the hygiene of food shops has taken place with the closet conversions in the parishes of Bildeston, Boxford and Lavenham.

The following tinned foodstuffs were voluntarily surrendered and destroyed:-

- 1 tin Brisling.

1 tin salmon.

1 tin Steak.

1 tin Ham.

2 tins Milk.
- 5 tins Luncheon Meat.

9 packets Cheese.

63 tins Strained Vegetables.

30 Packets Soup.

20 lbs. 13 oz. Beef.

- (c) ADULTERATION.

(d) CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

(e) NUTRITION.

(f) SHELL-FISH.

(g) WATER-CRESS.
- No change.

SECTION F.
PREVENTION OF & CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following table shows the number of Infectious Diseases among the civilian population during the year. These are the final numbers after corrections subsequently made either by the Notifying Medical Practitioner or by the Medical Superintendent of the Infectious Disease Hospital.

ALL NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING 1952.

	Erysipelas.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Measles.	Pneumonia.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Infective Hepatitis.	Paralytic Poliomyelitis.	Food Poisoning.
Grand Total:	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	F.	M. F.	M. M.	
208 95 113 Totals:	4 4	1 3	25 31	58 66	4 5	1	1 3	1 1	
Age 0 to under 1	- -	- -	4 3	4 2	- -	-	- -	- -	
1 " " 3	- -	- -	5 5	5 8	- -	-	- -	- -	
3 " " 5	- -	- -	4 5	10 10	1 2	-	- -	- -	
5 " " 10	- -	1 3	9 13	33 37	1 3	-	- -	1 1	
10 " " 15	1 -	- -	1 1	6 6	- -	-	- -	- -	
15 " " 25	- 1	- -	- 2	- 3	1 -	1	1 1	- -	
25 " " 45	1 -	- -	1 1	- -	- -	-	- 2	- -	
45 " " 65	2 2	- -	1 1	- -	- -	-	- -	- -	
65 & over.	- 1	- -	- -	- -	1 -	-	- -	- -	

As will be noted from the table of causes of death on page 3, there were no deaths from infectious diseases during 1952 other than those caused by Pneumonia.

Scarlet Fever. The cases occurring in Cosford, like those in the rest of the County, now appear of a very mild nature.

Whooping Cough. Despite intensive research, a vaccine suitable to guarantee immunity from this distressing complaint is not yet available although possibly an attenuated attack can be ensured.

Measles. The high incidence of Measles was by no means confined to our District.

Food Poisoning. The one case of Food Poisoning was associated with those in another District in which ice-cream was implicated.

The 208 notifications of infectious disease received during 1952 can be compared with those of previous years from the following table:-

	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Erysipelas.	Infective Hepatitis	Acute Poliomyelitis	Food Poisoning.	Meningococcal Meningitis.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Para-Typhoid Fevers	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Pneumonia.	Total Cases.
	A.	B.	#C.	#D.	E.	#F.	G.	H.	I.	J.	K.	L.	M.	N.
1952.	-	4	124	56	8	4	1	1	-	-	-	1	9	208
1951.	-	3	155	58	10	9	2	-	2	-	-	2	41	282
1950.	-	13	211	116	14	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	275
1949.	-	7	41	34	12	3	1	6	-	-	-	2	26	132
1948.	1	-	42	101	14	-	-	-	3	-	2	1	6	170
1947.	-	4	180	4	7	16	-	-	-	-	5	1	4	221
1946.	-	7	117	30	13	9	-	-	-	-	-	1	9	186
1945.	-	6	56	49	8	12	-	-	-	2	-	3	4	140
1944.	-	13	33	54	10	59	-	-	-	1	-	3	9	182
1943.	2	24	98	3	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	134
1942.	1	5	10	5	8	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	2	35
1941.	11	19	284	102	5	-	-	-	1	2	-	3	2	429
1940.	7	9	119	6	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	154
1939.	7	8	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	13	36
1938.	3	40	-	-	10	-	7	-	-	1	-	-	7	68
1937.	3	17	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	10	32
1936.	4	24	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	31

Measles and Whooping Cough were only made notifiable from October 1939

e Infective Hepatitis became notifiable in 1943.

The first Diphtheria Immunisations were completed in 1941.

T U B E R C U L O S I S.
New Cases and Mortality during 1952.

During 1952 there were new cases as follows:-

6 Pulmonary: 3 Males, aged 15, 29 & 52 years.
3 Females, aged 11, 23 & 33 years.
3 Non-Pulmonary: 2 Males, aged 7 years.
2 Females, aged 3 & 30 years.

There were 2 Males, aged 54 & 56 years.
Pulmonary deaths;

CASES REMAINING ON THE REGISTER.

		Total.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
			Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
End of	1952.	47	16	16	10	5
"	" 1951.	46	18	14	10	4
"	" 1950.	42	15	12	11	4
"	" 1949.	47	18	13	12	4

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Pulmonary.</u> <u>Female.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u> <u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u> <u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
1. Number of cases on Register at commencement of 1952.	18	14	10	4	28	18
2. Number of cases notified for the first time during the year under Regulations.	3	3	1	2	4	5
3. Cases restored to Register.	-	-	-	-	-	-
4. Cases added to Register otherwise than by notification under Regulations						
(a) Transferred from other Districts	1	1	-	-	1	1
(b) From Death Returns	-	-	-	-	-	-
5. Number of Cases removed from Register.	6	2	1	1	7	3
6. Number of Cases remaining on Register at the end of 1952.	16	16	10	5	26	21

